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Claims

1. Voice mail server for a cellular network (10), comprising

a receiving means (22) for receiving an incoming voice mail message,

an adapting means (26) for adapting the voice mail message into a format suitable for transmission by a network channel which does not meet a delay requirement for delay-sensitive information, and

a transmission means (28) for dispatching the adapted voice mail message to a mobile station (30).

2. Voice mail server according to claim 1, wherein the adapting means (26) includes a packetising means for packetising the compressed voice mail message into data packets suitable for packet-switched transmission.

3. Voice mail server according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the voice mail server (20) is adapted to adapt and transmit the voice mail message conforming to GPRS and/or UMTS standards.

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4. Voice mail server according to one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the voice mail server (20) is adapted to dispatch the voice mail message to an IP and/or ISDN address of said mobile station (30).

5. Voice mail server according to one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the voice mail server (20) is adapted to redispach the voice mail message in a predefined manner if the addressed mobile station (30) is unable to receive the message, said predefined manner including the repeated redispachment of the voice mail message on a regular or configurable basis for a predetermined period of time.

6. Voice mail server according to one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the voice mail server (20) is adapted to queue the voice mail message into a store-and-forward service, if the addressed mobile station (30) is unable to receive the message, and to inform the mobile station (30) of the stored message when the mobile station (30) becomes reachable again.

7. Voice mail server according to one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the voice mail server (20) is adapted to queue the voice mail message into a store-and-forward service, if the addressed mobile station (30) is unable to receive the message, and to dispatch the stored message to the mobile station (30) when the mobile station (30) becomes reachable again.

8. Voice mail server according to one of claims 5 to 7, wherein the voice mail server (20) is adapted to dispatch the stored message when the mobile station (30) asks for messages or for a certain message.

9. Voice mail server according to one of claims 5 to 8, wherein, if it is found that a storage means (35) of the mobile station (30) can not store all voice mail messages waiting at the voice mail server (20) at one time or if it is

found that the voice mail message exceeds a predefined size, the voice mail server (20) is adapted to dispatch another message to the mobile station (30) indicating that further voice mail messages or a remainder of said large voice mail message are still waiting to be dispatched.

10. Voice mail server according to claim 9, wherein the voice mail server (20) is adapted to dispatch a list of a plurality of stored messages to the mobile station (30).

11. Voice mail server according to one of claims 4 to 10, wherein the voice mail server (20) is adapted to transmit another message to the mobile station (30) if a voice mail message is not dispatchable within a predetermined period of time.

(12.) Mobile station for a cellular network, comprising a receiving means (32) for receiving an adapted voice mail message,  
a readapting means (34) for readapting the received message into a reproducible format, and  
a reproduction means (36) for reproducing the stored voice mail message.

13. Mobile station according to claim 12, further comprising a storage means (35) adapted to store a plurality of voice mail messages.

14. Mobile station according to claim 12 or 13, wherein said reproduction means (36) is a speaker.

15. Mobile station according to claim 12 or 13, wherein said reproduction means (36) includes a display means for displaying an image or video portion included in said voice mail message.

16. Mobile station according to one of claims 12 to 15,

wherein said mobile station (30) is adapted to receive and readapt the voice mail message conforming to GPRS and/or UMTS standards.

5        17. Mobile station according to one of claims 12 to 16, wherein said mobile station (30) further includes an adapting means (38) for adapting a voice mail message into a format suitable for transmission by a network channel which does not meet a delay requirement for delay sensitive information, and  
10        a transmission means (39) for dispatching the adapted voice mail message to a voice mail server (20).

15        18. Mobile station according to claim 17, wherein the adapting means (38) includes a packetising means for packetising the voice mail message into data packets suitable for packet-switched transmission.

20        19. Mobile station according to claim 17 or 18, wherein the mobile station (40) is adapted to adapt and transmit the voice mail message conforming to GPRS and/or UMTS standards.

20. Method for dispatching a voice mail message in a cellular network, comprising the steps of:

25        receiving an incoming voice mail message at a voice mail server (20) of said cellular network,

      adapting the received voice mail message into a format suitable for transmission by a network channel which does not meet a delay requirement for delay sensitive information,

30        dispatching the adapted voice mail message to a mobile station (30),

      receiving the dispatched voice mail message at the mobile station (30), and

      readapting the received voice mail message into a reproducible format.

35        21. Method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of

storing the received voice mail message in a storage means (35) of the mobile station (30).

22. Method according to claim 20 or 21, wherein the  
5 adapting step includes packetising the voice mail message into data packets suitable for packet-switched transmission.

23. Method according to one of claims 20 to 22, wherein  
10 the adapting step, the dispatching step, the receiving step and the readapting step are carried out conforming to GPRS and/or UMTS standards.

24. Method according to one of claims 20 to 23, wherein  
15 the voice mail message is dispatched to an IP and/or ISDN address of said mobile station (30).

25. Method according to one of claims 20 to 24, wherein  
20 the voice mail message is redispached in a predefined manner if the addressed mobile station (30) is unable to receive the message, said predefined manner including a repeated redispachment on a regular or configurable basis for a predetermined period of time.

26. Method according to one of claims 20 to 24, wherein  
25 the voice mail message is queued into a store-and-forward service, if the addressed mobile station (30) is unable to receive the message, and the mobile station (30) is informed of the stored message when the mobile station (30) becomes reachable again.

30 27. Method according to one of claims 20 to 24, wherein the voice mail message is queued into a store-and-forward service, if the addressed mobile station (30) is unable to receive the message, and dispatched to the mobile station (30) when the mobile station (30) becomes reachable again.

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28. Method according to one of claims 20 to 27, wherein the stored message is dispatched when the mobile station (30)

asks for messages or for a certain message.

29. Method according to one of claims 21 to 28, wherein,  
if it is found that the storage means (35) of the mobile sta-  
tion (30) can not store all voice mail messages waiting at  
the voice mail server (20) at one time or if it is found that  
the voice mail message exceeds a predefined size, another  
message is dispatched to the mobile station (30) indicating  
that further voice mail messages or a remainder of said large  
voice mail message are still waiting to be dispatched.

30. Method according to claim 29, wherein a list of a  
plurality of stored messages is dispatched to the mobile sta-  
tion (30).

31. Method according to one of claims 20 to 30, wherein  
another message is transmitted to the mobile station (30) if  
the voice mail message is not dispatchable within a predeter-  
mined period of time.

32. Voice mail system for carrying out the method ac-  
cording to one of claims 20 to 31, comprising the voice mail  
server (20) according to one of claims 1 to 11 and the mobile  
station (30) according to one of claims 12 to 19.